

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:SM

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S/S - O M. TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 12, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 19

MOST OF TODAY'S BRIEFING WAS DEVOTED TO PORTUGAL. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS ACTING SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS:

1. PORTUGAL: CALVAHO'S REMARKS ON AMB. CARLUCCI --
FUNSETH MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) HOST GOVERNMENT HAS PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE
SAFETY OF DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO IT;

(B) EXPECT GOP TO TAKE EVERY STEP TO ASSURE SAFETY OF
CARLUCCI AND OTHER U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AS WELL AS
PHYSICAL SAFETY OF EMBASSY;

(C) ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN COMMUNICATED
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THIS TO PORT. AMB. THERMIDO LAST NIGHT; CARLUCCI MADE IT

CLEAR TO GOP OFFICIALS IN LISBON;

(D) EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS GOP IS NOW PROVIDING THE NECESSARY PROTECTION; AND

(E) THIS GOP ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN LAST NIGHT BY PORT. FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT IT WILL GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE AMB AND THE EMBASSY.

ON CALVAHO'S ALLEGED COMMENT ON AMB CARLUCCI'S INVOLVEMENT IN YESTERDAY'S EVENTS, FUNSETH STRONGLY REITERATED THE CATEGORICAL DENIAL MADE YESTERDAY, ALSO STATED NO OFFICIAL REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE GOP ON THOSE COMMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL POINTED QUESTIONS FUNSETH STATED THE U.S. IS NOT INVOLVED IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THAT THE U.S. HAD WELCOMED THE PROSPECTS OF FREE ELECTIONS AND THE EVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS REFLECTING THE FREELY EXPRESSED VIEW OF THE PORT. PEOPLE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID, U.S. WOULD NATURALLY REGRET ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD INTERRUPT THIS HOPEFUL TREND.

ON THE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS, FUNSETH SAID PERIODIC MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN MCCLOSKEY AND THERMIDO; ON PORTUGAL AND NATO, HE RESPONDED BY RECALLING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' OCTOBER PUBLICALLY REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO NATO, STATING WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN THIS SITUATION.

2. HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS VOTE AGAINST INDOCHINA SUPPLEMENTAL -- NOTWITHSTANDING THIS VOTE, WE HOPE THAT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR URGENTLY NEEDED SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR CAMBODIA AND SVN.

3. INFILTRATION INTO SVN -- NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT WAS SAID ON MONDAY (I.E., SINCE JANUARY 1975 ABOUT 50,000 NVA HAVE INFILTRATED INTO SVN).

4. HE TOOK A QUESTION ON THE RELATION OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS TO AN EX-IM BANK LOAN TO KOREA.

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